Have you re-considered this question for the last 8 months?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There was no necessity for it. " The rule is not absolute ".

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On reading Appendix VIII, I do not know, Sir, what is meant by that "the rule is not absolute." and with my imperfect knowledge of language, I could not find why it is not absolute. No loophole is left here.

President.—There are exceptions to every rule.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Exceptions should not bulge out more than the rule. There should be a proportion in these matters. I cannot understand certain cases, for example, Mr. Raman Menon. There are certain other people attached to the General Hospital, Ernakulam. I ask another question. Have you gone through the list? You will find that certain people are retained in one and the same dispensary in the same place. It is so with Mr. Joseph, an Assistant Surgeon in the General Hospital, Ernakulam.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—He has been in the General Hospital for the last 4 or 5 years.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I may correct you ; it is about 7 years.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese—I do not exactly remember. I think it is 4 or 5 years.

President.—Why is it that his case has not been suggested to the Government for transfer?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I had already asked the Government to transfer him. Every one of the Assistant Surgeons of the Moffussil Hospitals represented to me that they would consider it a hardship to work in the General Hospital, because the work is heavy here, and the cost of living high. They also find it difficult to supplement their pay by private practice. As a result of all these, they do not agree. Further, they are doing their work well there. And here is a man who is willing to stay.

The supply of medicines.

52. Dr. A. R. Menon.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state why was the supply of medicines changed from Messrs. Ferris & Co. to Messrs. Dadha & Co.;

(b) what was the annual amount paid in the shape of customs duty on purchase from Messrs. Ferris & Co.;

(c) how are the tinctures supplied now; excluding the supply of tinctures, how do the prices of Messrs. Ferris & Co. compare with those of Messrs. Dadha & Co.?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Vide answer to question 119 of the legislative session of 1101.

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(b) The annual payment of customs duty varies. The amount paid to Messrs. Peirce Leslie & Co. for four years from 1097 to 1100 is given below. The figures include not only customs duty but all incidental charges till delivery at the respective stations.

1097	Rs.	12,927—5—0
1098		19,416—3—3
1099		10,921—6—9
1100		19,361—5—0

(c) Tinctures are supplied partly by import of concentrated tinctures from Messrs. Burgoyne Burbidges & Co. and partly from Dr. Bose's Laboratories, Calcutta.

Excluding tinctures and spirituous preparations, the price of Messrs. Dadha & Co. compares favourably with that of Messrs. Ferris & Co., Ltd.

The discharge of a female in-patient from the General Hospital.

53. Dr. A R. Menon :—Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is true that a female patient was discharged from the Ernakulam General Hospital at 11 p. m. on 15th Medam 1101; if so, why?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No; but a female patient was allowed to be removed from the hospital on that night by her mother.

Dr. A. R. Menon:—I am not satisfied with the answer, Sir. Will you kindly explain what the circumstance is?

President.—I shall read the report of the Civil Surgeon on the incident.

" With reference to your memo, dated 19th July 1926, R. O. C. No. 2879/01, I have the honour to report that on the night in question, I paid a visit to the Hospital, as occasionally I do, when I found lots of people crowded in the female wards, some seated on the patients' beds and others on the floor, chatting loudly and disturbing the patients. These were either the patients' attendants or their relatives. In the interest of the sick, I thought it undesirable to allow so many people to crowd about the wards at night, and I told them to clear away. I asked those on duty that night not to allow any one to stand by the side of the patients, unless the patient was so ill that she could not but have an attendant by her side. A woman, the mother of a patient in convalescence stage after fever, objected in strong language to leaving her patient in the Hospital, and said she would take the patient away in that case. I said I had no objection, and I was bound to see ' behaviour ' in the Hospital up. Accordingly, she took her patient away with my sanction."

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